

WESSEX NEWS

VOL. 1 No. 7

MAY 12TH, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

A GOOD REPORT

"To-day it is rather such things as the provision of amenities in furtherance of the corporate life of students, for example halls of residence, common rooms, refectories and playing fields; and such an increase in staff as will make possible more individual tuition and personal contact between staff and student,"—these, in the opinion of the University Grants Committee, which has just published its Report for the period 1929-30 to 1934-35, are the most urgent of the needs and problems of the universities of this country to-day. We could, of course, reply "I told you so," but it should be remembered that the Committee is a body of men whose duty it is to examine the universities in their every aspect: their work, finance, libraries, staff and students. We, on the other hand, naturally see ourselves first, and that the Committee gives chief importance to the needs mentioned above must interest and please us all.

Of all the student needs, the Report stresses, the most urgent is considered to be that of the provision of Halls of Residence. That the times to be most valued at a University "are not the hours when I sat taking notes, nor those when I read in the library; nor even those when I cheered a College boat to victory or emerged perspiring from the scrum. They are the times when 'we tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky,'" is agreed; and admitting the value of the corporate nature of hostel life it is pleasant to find that of the University institutions of this country (apart from Oxford and Cambridge) this College has among the highest percentage of resident students.

Further it is suggested (1) The Hall should be specially built for the purpose. (2) That each Hall should be large enough to accommodate a fair sized body of students drawn from a variety of faculties. (3) Each student should have a separate study bedroom. It will be seen that in the Committee's view we are not yet perfect. Their last recommendation as to Halls of Residence is as to the necessity for choosing the right type of man for Warden, and emphasising the fact that "students . . . will need a large amount of individual liberty and should be able, within certain obvious limits, to take a considerable share in the conduct and regulation of the Hall's internal affairs." True, except in so far as the obviousness of the limits is to be doubted. In our own Halls we have considerable liberty and self-regulation, but many are of the opinion that that liberty should be

extended. Though the community life of the Hall holds greater possibilities than life "in digs" the more obvious freedom (and possibly cheapness) of the latter must be met by the Halls if they are to avoid giving the impression that their students are inmates rather than residents.

Three other points are particularly worthy of notice. For the first a quotation will suffice: "in certain instances, we could not but be impressed by the obvious inadequacy of the Union accommodation available. Refectories again are in a number of cases exceedingly congested and the catering arrangements are not infrequently susceptible of improvement."

The second comes under a paragraph headed "The relations between student and teacher." "The fellowship between student and teacher is not as close as it ought to be and as they could wish it to be. The difficulty is due to a variety of causes. . . . The increasing number of students, involving in a number of subjects very large classes; the insufficient opportunities for meeting outside the classroom, the immature state of mind in which a number of students begin their university career, and the prolongation into that career of the erroneous conception of a gulf or a dividing line between student and teacher." Here again we in this College have an obvious advantage over bodies like London University with 12,000 students scattered over a wide area: here the fault lies not so much in outside circumstances as in the students and staff concerned.

Thirdly, the Report discusses the question of lectures, a question which as it itself says has been discussed since the first foundation of Universities. Lecturers, it is said, declaim against compulsory lectures, or even lectures at all—but they go on lecturing just the same. The Report's considerations cannot be fully discussed or detailed here—the ability of students to read well for themselves, the ability of lecturers to lecture well, the question of how many lectures there should be; since "if the lecture is to be a stimulus to reading and self-education, the student must have ample leisure in which to follow up the lines of study and trains of thought suggested by the lecture."

All these points and others of equal interest are discussed at some length and the greatest clarity in the Report, of which it may be mentioned there are two copies available in the S.C. Room.

Alastair Geddes.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, May 12th, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: Alastair Geddes.

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EDITORIAL.

Our leader this week, being by ourselves, is hardly by a 'distinguished authority' but it none the less deals with a matter of great interest to us all. We can all criticise the College, we should all attempt to make our criticism constructive instead of merely refractory, and it is interesting from this point of view, to see the opinions of the University Grants Committee on matters which concern us so very directly. At the same time when the facts amassed by this committee—which visited the College some three years ago—were so readily available, it seems hard that it is so difficult for any of us to find out what happens within our own precincts. It may be argued that it is impossible for the College authorities to let us know more of the working of the College, its difficulties and aspirations—or that it is impolitic, but there is the danger that, while so much of valuable work is done unseen, there will be a liability on our parts for suspicion to be engendered. Not everyone it may be said wants to read College accounts or know of the doings of Councils and Senates, but nevertheless if the corporate life we hear so much about is to be fully realised, there must never be any fear that the body will have two corporations rather than one.

* * * *

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

HUGHES, PETERS,
AND FINN.

Though Hughes was beaten by Peters in the lawn tennis match on Wednesday, the College had its revenge: Finn beat Peters that evening—at table tennis in New Hall.

The official opening of the Courts was a great success: organisation, for convenience and good weather made it an enjoyable function. Everybody that should have sat, sat, and the majority of those that should have stood, did so. Of the actual match our correspondent has not thought fit to send as a report, but to see such a fine exhibition of tennis, played as though the players enjoyed it as much as the spectators, was worth standing to see. Hughes won the first set apparently fairly easily and though he lost the second we expected him to pull up, but Peters, playing better and better as the game went on wore Hughes down to win at 3-6, 9-7, 6-3. After the game the same pleasant informality prevailed at tea in the Pavilion and the Principal was heard discussing emulating Mr. Bishop and Bagwell who were doing a dozen or two laps round the track.

Wessex

There seems to be almost only one way to review a publication which in a hundred pages covers such a variety of topics: to imitate the local press notice of the village play—name all the players, the parts they played and say that each did well. This is not meant rudely; a review of the College year, a semi-technical article on the Queen Mary, a cartoon, a sermon and modern poetry, cover ground which might be represented pictorially but defies any adequate notice in a short space. Suffice to say that in this year's *Wessex* there is a great deal that is extremely interesting and well written: and by way of definite though minor criticism, can any member of College be expected to glance with favour on the end pieces that have for so many years adorned our literary productions?

THE * BOAT HOUSE.

Would that Byron were still with us—flowers of chivalry were certainly gathered by the river's edge: Eton scarves, Leander ties, 'College colours, Austin Reed and the Old Kent Road were gathered there. Mr. Ian Hay in opening the Boat House spoke of opening many things, from bazaars to bottles, of coaching Mr. Casson on the Cam and lightly decimated critics of rowing—the people who cannot understand why eight men should sit in a boat looking one way and going the other as though they were members of the Cabinet, and then went on to speak movingly about pulling together in or out of boats, etc. Whereupon, the Boat House having been opened, the crews took to the water and part of the multitude to a number of mythical launches at Cobden Bridge.

†We are indebted for much of our information to Miss E. F. Stallard.

*N.B.—The Casson Boat House is not yet called the Casson Boat House.

THE BOAT HOUSE LUNCH.

The achievements of the Boat Club were aptly celebrated at a lunch on Saturday, given by the College at New Hall in honour of Major Ian Hay Beith, once captain of Lady Margaret B.C. and instructor of Mr. Casson. Major Beith had kindly consented to open the new Boat House provided by the College Council, and in his generosity nothing was more striking than the easy and fluent way in which he made this lunch a brilliant success. His presence inspired Mr. Casson to make a remarkable and witty survey of the history of the Boat Club, in which he paid tribute to the many benefactors and coaches whose efforts had created and kept alive a struggling and impoverished club. His own part he summed up neatly and inadequately in a phrase of Major Beith's from the past—"hard-working, but weird." Replying to the toast of Rowing, Major Beith had no hesitation in calling rowing men "the salt of the earth." Rowing, like golf, he said, provided more exercise the

worse it was done, and was a proof of the adage that anything which is worth doing is worth doing thoroughly badly. He complimented the College B.C. on their achievements, and was proud to have the chance of linking together the oldest and newest College boat clubs in the Kingdom. The Principal, proposing a vote of thanks, showed how the wit and generous charm of Major Beith had added to our established admiration for 'Ian Hay.' He added a more than justified word of gratitude to Mr. Casson, "without whom there would have been no College Boat Club." Robertson, Captain of Boats, seconded with the admirable brevity of a strong and silent rowing man. There were present members of Council, and of the Students' Union, Officials of the Boat Club and representatives of Reading.

Pudovkin and Shaw.

This week in the Assembly Hall, through the enthusiasm of the Socialist Society, Socialists, critics and others, will have an opportunity of seeing one of the best of the Russian films, Pudovkin's 'Storm over Asia.'

It will be interesting to compare, if it is not heresy to suggest it, Pudovkin with Shaw the following week, when the English Classical Players are doing 'Arms and the Man.' Pudovkin is recognised by all films as film with a small f, while Shaw, even when he stands on his head, has both weight and wit. The two shows, on May 15th and 22nd respectively, should give ample ground for arguing film versus footlights.

THE FLAGRANT MOMENT.
THE HUMAN TOUCH.

When you've failed your wretched terminals and got an N.S.I., when last Thursday fortnight's essay is as far as e'er from done, when you've trouble with your room-mates or your neighbours and their ways, or you've cracked your skull at Rugby or at Netball—on those days, just go and see your tutor, who'll invite you round to tea and treat you with a human touch and heartfelt sympathy. He will comfort you and soothe you with meringues and nice eclairs, and will give you ghostly counsel with a sprinkling of "There, there's." And then again it might occur—such things are not unknown—he'll pat your little marcelled head, ask you to be his own. Ah, think what bliss if he became your true devoted tutor! There's nothing like the human touch in dealing with your Tutor!

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But—Tennis beat Goldsmiths and Cricket start well

ROWING v READING.

(by our Special Correspondent).

Those of us in the First Boat thought, if there were any justice in heaven, we should at last beat Reading on Saturday. After negotiations, almost as long as and infinitely more delicate than those of the League of Nations, the recalcitrant Power was brought over to honour its obligations on the Tichen. It is inexpressibly humiliating not to be able to record a glorious victory of virtue. *Reading won by a clear two lengths in a course of under two miles!*

Perhaps it was not so bad as it sounds. We made a very bad start, and Reading led by half a length in the first minute, with the advantage of the inner bend to the Railway Bridge. But we then held them well, rowing at 36, fairly well together and with some power. At Cobden Bridge we were only a canvas down. It was here that the Blight came: a horrid lurch into the wind, a perceptible shortening up at the beginning and the end of the stroke, and that deadly feeling of being unable to make three limbs do what is required of them. The finish was excruciatingly bad.

Yet Mr. Casson has phoned to say that he was quite pleased with us—that we rowed well and were unfortunate in having the long bends; that Reading had had far more training than we could possibly get, and were far better than they were at Henley.

But we will not be comforted.

In the race for 2nd Eights the first start was marred by Button's blade breaking loose from his rigger. The Reading coach, acting as umpire, sportingly recalled the boats for a re-start from which Reading took a half length lead. U.C.S. soon regained this and led slightly at the Railway Bridge. Three good 'tens' increased the lead to over two lengths by Cobden Bridge, where Reading fouled a dinghy, thus enabling U.C.S., who were still going away, to win easily.

That the crew was rough was not surprising in view of the enforced changes in personnel, but we may have discovered a racing stroke in Button. We are in need of racing strokes and it is hopeful to find a man who stroked his crew so well in face of his personal difficulties due to changing sides.

ATHLETICS v R.N. and R.M., PORTSMOUTH.

(by our correspondent).

There was good sport for competitor and spectator alike on Saturday. That our visitors won by 13 points (51-64) was no less due to their ability than to their thorough sportsmanship and cheerfulness.

Out of 13 events the College got 6 firsts, R.N. and R.M.6, and one event was a tie. In two events we were outclassed—the one and three miles—these two events cost us the match and showed the need of running strong second and third strings.

In the sprints Wallace was in a class of his own: Morton earned a valuable six points in the discus and weight, while Atkinson won a well-judged quarter. Middle distance events found the College sadly lacking. Third place in the Half Mile might have been improved upon with a little more intelligent running, while the Mile yielded only one point.

Bagwell ran an almost lone race in the Three Miles, but he found the fast pace cut by the Navy trio too much for him. Disappointment was expressed by certain critics with his time of 16/31, but in view of the conditions it was an improvement upon Sports Day. Tier's effort in the Javelin also merits comment.

The results prove, however, that the previous week's apathy can be remedied. It is to be hoped that plenty of competitors will be found for the matches between now and the Inter Collegiate.

Bagwell (3 Miles) and Wallace (100 and 220) are taking part in the U.A.U. Championships at the White City next Friday and Saturday: they carry our best wishes.

A.U. COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the A.U. Committee on Saturday, adopted the outlines of a plan for ground development and maintenance. The main suggestions approved have already been discussed in *Wessex News*, and the chief responsibility of the full committee was to examine the details and implications of the sub-committee's proposals. A number of points relating in particular to rolling equipment and pavilion accommodation were referred to captains and secretaries, and the problem of financial reorganisation was deferred for further discussion.

It was decided to send representatives to the U.A.U. Sports at the

White City and to the W.I.V.A.B. Sports at Birmingham.

After considerable debate rules were approved for play on the new hard courts at Swaythling and the new grass courts at College. It was strongly urged that tennis should always be played in the *proper white attire* on all A.U. courts.

Summary of Tennis Rules.

A. For the hard courts.

1 Play only between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., under supervision.

2 One court always reserved for team players.

B. For the grass courts at College.

1 From 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., all three courts for students.

2 From 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m., one court for staff, one for students and one unallocated.

3 From 5 p.m., two courts for staff and one for students.

4 From 2.30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, including the period after 5 p.m., rules to apply as from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on other days of the week.

5 The administrative Staff to be invited to play on two evenings per week.

Editorial Appeal.

We would beg of captains and secretaries to send in, not only details of all matches played, but also notice of all fixtures arranged for the coming week. *An increasing circulation outside of College makes a complete fixture list even more necessary than it is for the convenience of students and staff.*

TENNIS.

1st Team v Goldsmiths.

Won 8-4.

The 1st team played its first match of the season on Saturday, when they met Goldsmiths in a mixed match at home. The new hard courts were playing well, but the rucking up at the base line and close to the net showed only too well that great care must be exercised during this season.

In the men's doubles our men easily established their superiority, each of the three pairs winning two straight sets. The women, however, met with stronger opposition, one of their doubles being won, one lost and one abandoned at one set all owing to the temporary incapacitation of Miss Peal.

In the mixed doubles, in which the ranking order of the men was slightly varied, the College secured four victories in the six events.

Thus College won by 8 events to 3, with 1 unfinished. Altogether, the team put up a creditable performance against a weaker team. Some excellent rallies showed their capabilities, though there is room for greater steadiness, which should ensue as the season proceeds.

The 2nd team were between 10-2 by the stronger team of the Southern Railway (Bastleigh) Sports Club, in a closely contested match for which the score scarcely does the team justice.

On Wednesday next the First meet the Staff in a mixed match, while on Saturday the men are meeting a team from the strongest of the local clubs, the *Cambrians*. This match is to be played on the hard courts, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB.

Trials have been very promising, and we should have two good teams. The first team is going to do its utmost to win at least one Inter-Varsity match. We play *Exeter* on May 28th, *Reading* on June 17th and *Bristol* on June 20th. The second team have a good fixture list and should do well. With the new courts to inspire us we hope to raise the standard of Women's Tennis, and also to be able to give more colours than last year, if Inter-Varsity results improve.

CRICKET CLUB.

College v Postal Clerks.

Civil Service Crd. Wed., May 6th. College.

R. T. Keleher, b Titheridge...	11
A. J. White, b Fern...	25
H. R. Downer, c Yeoman, b Titheridge...	74
J. E. Francis, b Fern...	28
H. T. Robinson, Not Out...	2
Tedd, l.b.w., b Fern...	0
Thorp, Not Out...	5
Extras...	12

Total, for 5 wks. dec. ... 157

Postal Clerks ... 54

Bowling.

White: 5—1—17—3.
Pettit: 5—0—15—4.
Bignell: 3—2—6—1.
Archard: 2.5—1—6—2.

College v Eastleigh Town

At Eastleigh. Sat., May 9th.	
R. T. Keleher, b Hodges	12
A. J. White, c Burcher, b Webb	12
H. R. Downer, c and b Stone	11
J. E. Francis, c and b Hodges	4
H. T. Robinson, c Burcher, b Stone	2
Bullock, c Stone, b Allen	1
Thorp, b Stone	1
Pettit, st. Morgan, b Webb	2
Archard, l.b.w., b Allen	0
Wife (A. R.), c Norton, b Allen	2
Bignell, Not Out	0
Extras	11

Total ... 58

Eastleigh ... 46

SOCIAL SOCIETY
FILM SHOWPUDOVKIN'S
STORM OVER
ASIAASSEMBLY HALL
FRIDAY, MAY 15th
at 8.30

Bowling.

A. J. White: 8-4-0-25-7.
Pettit: 1-0-3-0
Bignell: 7-2-10-2.CRICKET NOTES.
White Bowls Well.

The Cricket Club has started well. On Wed. a rather weak side, the Postal Clerks, was easily defeated; features of the game being a fine 74 by Downer, and good scores by White and Francis, and good bowling by Pettit and White. College won by 103 runs.

On Saturday we visited Eastleigh and encountered a pitch which was undoubtedly responsible for a low scoring match and certain bruises. College was dismissed for 58, only White, Downer, and Keleher reaching double figures. Eastleigh were put out for 46, White taking 7 wickets for 25 runs, and Bignell, bowling steadily at the other end, kept the runs down.

On Wednesday next we visit King's College, London, and on Saturday next at home we play Exeter in the first round of the U.A.U. Championship.

Fixtures.

Cricket.

Wednesday, 13th—away v King's College, London.
Saturday, 16th—Home U.A.U. v EXETER.

Tennis.

Wednesday, 13th—away v Staff Saturday, 16th—home v Cambrins.

Athletics.

Friday, 15th—away v King Alfred's College, Winchester (provisional).

The
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~ CAFE ~You know where
it is — you know
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YOURSELF — —

Correspondence.

Sir,

As a visitor from another home of learning may I be so bold as to submit to you a questionnaire on certain local academic peculiarities! I ask this in no spirit of frivolous curiosity, but with a desire to foster the comparative study of English University life in all its forms which will be of profit to ourselves and of perpetual interest to all future generations.

1. Co-operation between staff and students.

Why, in view of the general friendliness of staff and students,

(a) Although several members of the staff showed themselves on Saturday to be brilliant oarsmen, only one was included in the College eight?

(b) Although all are greeted on their arrival by the College page-boy, only the staff are allowed access to the College bar?

Is there any causal connection between these facts?

2. Official Regalia.

What is the hierarchy of college uniforms? Which, for example denotes the highest rank?

(a) Blue jacket and brass buttons.

(b) Jockey cap and scarlet blazer.

(c) White jacket, rainbow scarf and Fleet Street flannels.

3. Library.

(a) Is the idiosyncratic atmosphere intended as a protection against the dangerous germs of thought? Has it been efficacious? If so, other colleges would be interested.

(b) Why, since Theology is admittedly both "the Queen of the sciences and the mistress of all learning" (vide Professor Betts) are the shelves of its study room untenanted by books? Do Southampton students rely entirely on personal religious experience for access to the truth?

4. Public Faces.

What is the explanation of the habit of many men students of walking about with their mouths permanently open? Is this due to

(a) Adenoids,
(b) Perpetual Thirst,
(c) Consideration of the major problems of modern life not already comprised in (b)?

As anonymity is the essence of all investigations by the questionaire,

I sign myself, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Rerum cognoscere causas.

To the Editor of Wessex News,
Sir,

The recent publication of the Annual Record of the Movement for a University of Wessex affords an opportune moment to ask the meaning of this movement. The idea of a university, the notion of

a romantic Wessex, and a somewhat parochial interest in the cultural and intellectual affairs of the district, form a mixture which is pleasant to the point of intoxication but which leaves the brain in a somewhat hazy condition. The second of these ingredients may, in 1936 at any rate, be dismissed immediately. The first and third are connected.

At present, students of this College take External London degrees, to which the world attaches considerable importance. Until its degrees had acquired a similar prestige, a University of Wessex would have less advantages to offer students than this College as at present constituted. When Reading became a University the uniqueness of its Agricultural Faculty gave it, in that line a standing which Bristol, with no such peculiarity, has not obtained. The success of a University of Wessex, especially financially, would require a similar development of an, at present non-existent, peculiarity in its studies.

It is to this problem that local interest, the third element in the Wessex movement, has its relevance if it is able to provide that peculiarity upon which the success of a new provincial university depends. Should, for example, the Navigation School form the basis, the real raison d'être of our University-to-be?

But there is a more fundamental question. Would this really be a University when it has but one claim to fame and none to universality of study? Does not University College, Southampton, approach nearer to the idea of a University than could such a University of Wessex?

Yours, etc.,

♠

The Hall of Eating.

Now the Hall of Eating stood for many years and brought much profit to the owners thereof. Long was it, and wide, and furnished with many tables and benches, and it was builded of wood. At certain times men and women did eat therein together, at other times apart. Many and savoury were the dishes prepared in this hall, roots, pulses, the eggs of fowls, fish from the marshes, and in great abundance the seed of an Eastern plant. There meat was also, and I the scribe have seen the field, in North Stoneham, where dwelt many aged horses. From these horses, long-haired and lean, was the meat taken.

Many of the dishes were humble for they bore the name of cottage; and yet another bore the name of a woman, to wit, Catherine of the Red Hair; yet in truth it was but bran-mash.

Now beneath the floor of the hall was a hollow space, and therein many rats had their lairs and nests; yea, multiplied mightily, the doers bore many litters, and the bucks were strong and valiant, bringing in abundance

Calendar.

Tuesday, May 12th.

2.30 p.m. Accounts Sub-Committee.
3 p.m. Library Committee, Room 9.

Wednesday, May 13th.

2 p.m. Senate, Committee Room.
7.30 p.m. Institute of Electrical Engineers, Bot. Theatre.

Thursday, May 14th.

5.15 p.m. Meeting of Student Secs.
7.30 p.m. Gardener's Society, Room 31.

Friday, May 15th.

1.20 p.m. Catholic Soc., Room 3
1.20 p.m. I.N.U. Prof. G. E. C. Catlin on 'Peace or War for Britain', Music Studio.
3 p.m. Library Committee.
8.30 p.m. Soc. Sec. Pudovkin's 'Storm over Asia', Assembly Hall, 8.30 p.m.

Sunday, May 17th.

9.40 a.m. Collegiate Service, St. Mary's, S. Stoneham.
Monday, May 18th.

Scholarship Exams. begin.
1.20 p.m. Gramophone Club.
Saint-Saens Piano Quintet
Music Studio, 1.20 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19th.

2.30 p.m. Halls and Refectory Committee.

Advance Notices.

May 22nd.

Shaw's 'Arms and the Man',
Assembly Hall, 8.15 p.m.

May 29th and 30th.

S.O.H. Whitson Reunion.

of food. Now because of much food, and because no enemies molested them, the rats waxed fat and bold, and would take their journeys even in the daylight.

And it fell on a day, at the time when men and women fed apart, that a certain rat arose and wandered forth. Old and scarred was this rat, and on ears and tail he bore warts and many a mark of battle. He roamed then over the floor, observed of none, until he came to the place where the women sat at meat; and one espied him, and uttered loud and piercing cries. Then the other women looked and saw, and they also shrieked. And they all arose together, and strove to reach the door.

But the hall was of timber, old and rotten, and as they rushed and struggled each against other, to the walls gave way, and the floor, and the roof fell in. So all the women were buried in the ruin, from which arose much dust. But the rat escaped.

Then said the powers that were: "The Hall of Eating is no more; and the women are no more. Yet without women a Hall of Eating is no use. Let us therefore not build a new hall, but let the men feed as they will."

And so it was done.

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